

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2345*

House Bill No. 2478

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

Section 1. The purpose of this act is to invest in the self-sufficiency of aid to families with dependent children recipients, or successor program.

Section 2. For the purpose of this act, a low-income entrepreneur is one who is starting or expanding a business and who meets the eligibility criteria for receipt of aid to families with dependent children, or successor program.

Section 3. Low-income entrepreneurs will be allowed to escrow profits from their business enterprise which are not reinvested into their business into an account which will be placed in a micro-lending intermediary program and not be counted against their public assistance benefits until they accumulate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for the period they are eligible for the AFDC program, or successor program. Under this provision, participating entrepreneurs, who are otherwise eligible for AFDC, or successor program, will not have their benefits reduced and will not lose the supplemental benefits extended to them as AFDC, or successor program, recipients for the life of the escrow account as defined herein. Participants must notify the department of human services in advance of their decision to elect this option.

Section 4. This exemption can be reapplied for whenever the participant is eligible for AFDC, or successor program.

Section 5. Under this section, self-employment will be considered the same as a job component, if the individual's income, divided by the minimum wage, equals at a minimum twenty (20) hours per week. To receive the self-employment exemption

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outlined herein, low-income entrepreneurs must be enrolled in the job component of the AFDC program, or successor program, and must be enrolled in a micro-lending program providing entrepreneurship training, technical assistance and peer support.

Section 6. A micro-lending program is one which provides training, technical assistance and loan funds to low-income entrepreneurs to start or expand a business venture.

Section 7. The program is dependent on the availability of appropriate waivers from the federal departments of health and human services and agriculture, which the department of human services is authorized to make application for.

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Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996, the public welfare requiring it.

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